

LAY LOW IN THESE HEELS {page 19}


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Wednesday, December 12, 2012



Gov. inks deal with Amazon, be prepared to pay sales tax

- ▶ Starting in November 2013, all Amazon.com purchases shipped to Massachusetts will be taxed
- ▶ Local businesses owners pleased with pact {page 02}

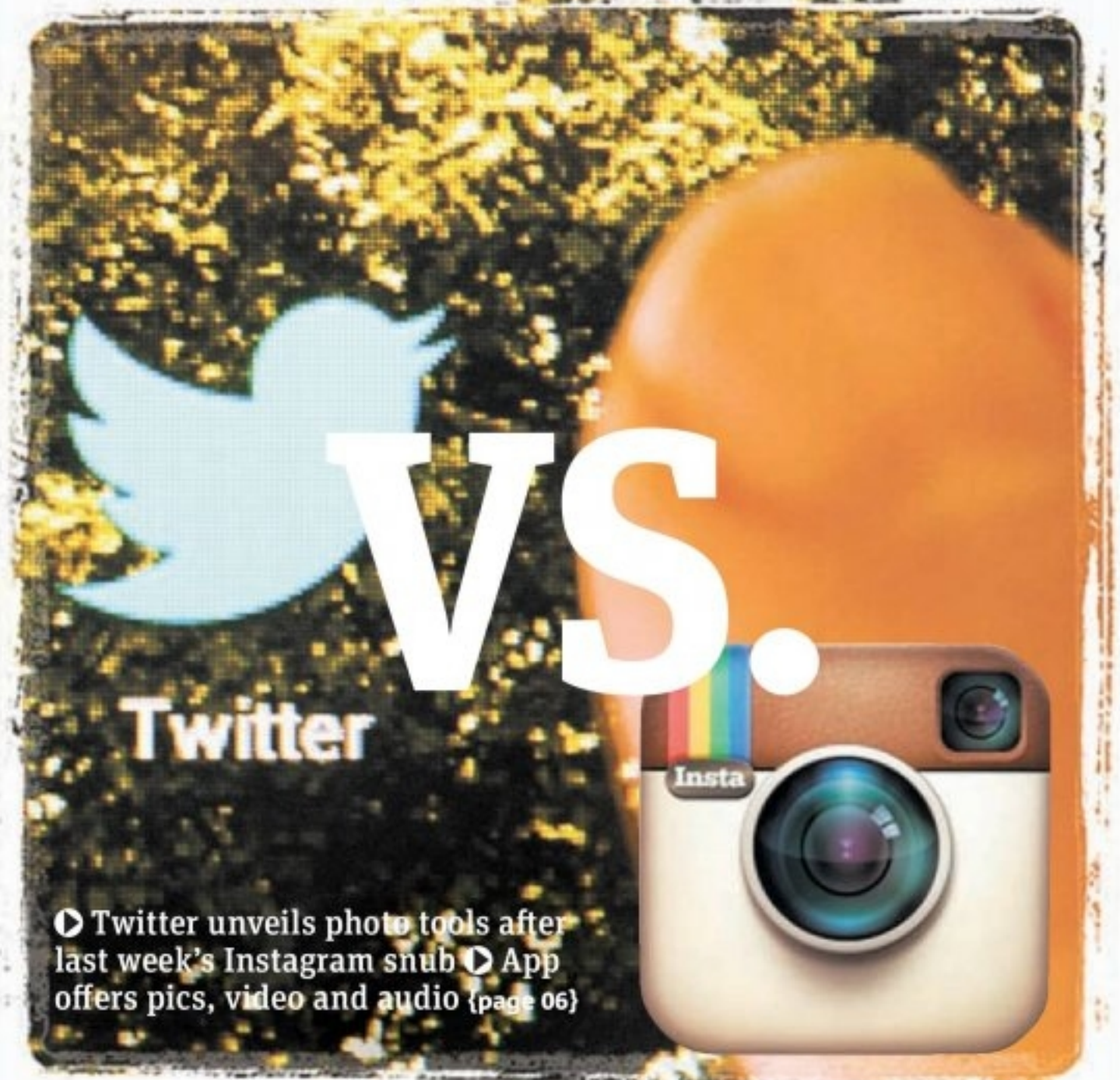


home

We're upcyclin' around the Christmas Tree

- ▶ Don't throw out the light bulb! It's a great ornament! {pages 30-31}

Sports: Rondo critics a tad too vocal {page 27}



- ▶ Twitter unveils photo tools after last week's Instagram snub ▶ App offers pics, video and audio {page 06}



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By the numbers

\$24.7M

Three utility companies will pay more than \$24 million in penalties for "systematic failures" in their response to storm damage and power outages last year. National Grid will pay \$18.7 million, NStar will pay \$4 million and Western Massachusetts Electric will pay \$2 million in penalties. Plans for payment are due within 30 days. State officials said the penalties, levied in connection with responses to Tropical Storm Irene and an October 2011 snowstorm, will be returned to customers. SHNS

Today's local tweet



"Ain't Nuthin' Common 'Bout my Gold Chains, Fool! RT @DutchChokal ate: On public transit with the common folk #mbta"

@MR_MBTA CHANNELS
HIS INNER "MR. T" ON
THE T

In the news

Former Boston teacher's aide pleads guilty

BOSTON. A former aide working at various Boston public schools pleaded guilty yesterday to charges including indecent assault and battery on a child.

Lashawn Hill, 34, was sentenced to between one and three years in jail, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

Prosecutors said Hill inappropriately touched a developmentally disabled boy, about 6 years old, inside a bathroom at the Martin Luther King Jr. School in March 2011. Last December, a teacher found him in a room of the Harbor Pilot School with a 14-year-old, nonverbal autistic child. Both of their pants were unbuckled, authorities said. **METRO**



► Wu

Hub's 2013 City Council race gets under way

BOSTON. A South End resident and former Elizabeth Warren campaign worker filed paperwork yesterday for her bid to win one of the Boston City Council's at-large seats in next year's election.

Michelle Wu, 27, most recently worked full-time on the Warren campaign, where she directed statewide outreach to communities of color, according to her Facebook page.

She also was a Rappaport Fellow and has worked in Mayor Thomas Menino's office. **METRO**

Man fatally shot in Roxbury

BOSTON. An unidentified man was found fatally shot in Roxbury yesterday, and police are hunting for the killer.

Officers responded to 37 Copeland St., just after 1 a.m. for a report of a person shot. When they arrived, they found a 28-year-old man inside an apartment dead from gunshot wounds. **METRO**

Christmas comes early for local retailers — at your expense

► Christmas at Amazon will cost you next year ► Retail giant, state agree on sales-tax issue ► Local shop owners say it levels playing field for all



► Workers in one of Amazon's many distribution centers prepare for the holiday rush.

KAREN BLEIER/APP/GETTY IMAGES

Focus now on feds

Patrick, Amazon officials and local business supporters said they will turn their attention to the issue at the federal level.

► All sides said they will work on getting Congress to move federal legislation to resolve the sales-tax issue.

► States including Texas and New Jersey have come to similar agreements like the one announced with Massachusetts yesterday.



MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Your Cyber Monday shopping will cost you a little more next year.

Online retail giant Amazon has agreed to start collecting sales tax for orders shipped to locations in Massachusetts starting next year.

The agreement, announced yesterday by Gov. Deval Patrick's office, comes after local shop owners and municipal officials have been crying foul over the online company's ability to provide customers a slightly cheaper alternative when shopping. They've also contended that the state has been losing out on millions of dollars in potential sales-tax revenue.

"Our members are grateful and relieved to know that they will not have to face another holiday sales season with a 6.25-percent tax disparity with the world's largest online seller," said Jon B. Hurst, president of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts. "Although we would have preferred a level playing field this holiday season, we are grateful to Gov. Patrick for his tireless work on this issue."

Sales tax must be collected by businesses with a physical presence in a state even if the purchase is made online. Amazon, which is based in Seattle, said it plans to increase its presence in Massachusetts.

In yesterday's announcement, Amazon said it plans to



► All Amazon.com purchases shipped to Massachusetts will now be subject to a 6.25-percent sales tax.

CHARLES O'DONNAN/GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"In the age of the smartphone, sales taxes should be applied the same for purchases, whether made on Main Street or online."

SALEM MAYOR KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL, CO-CHAIR OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MAIN STREET FAIRNESS COALITION

create "hundreds of high-tech jobs" in the coming years.

"I value the contributions large and small employers alike make to Massachusetts' economic vitality, and this agreement captures that," said Patrick. "We are thankful Amazon was willing to come to the table and we will continue our conversations with them about creating jobs here. This agreement is a win for all sides, and I am pleased it promises to generate millions in long-term revenue for the Commonwealth."

The agreement takes effect Nov. 1.

Quoted

"We look forward to creating hundreds of high-tech jobs in Massachusetts and continuing to work with Gov. Patrick, state leaders, retailers and Congress to pass federal legislation permitting interstate sales tax collection."

PAUL MISENER, AMAZON VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY

"This agreement is a win for all sides, and I am pleased it promises to generate millions in long-term revenue for the Commonwealth."

GOV. DEVAL PATRICK

News in brief

Verdict still pending for Cahill

MASSACHUSETTS. The same jury that found alleged co-conspirator Scott Campbell not



guilty yesterday recessed until today without reaching a verdict about former Treas-

urer Tim Cahill. Judge Christine Roach gave the jurors in Cahill's trial a "local media blackout," telling them they may not read local newspapers and must switch off the radio if the case is mentioned. After acquitting Cahill's co-defendant around noon, a Suffolk Superior Court jury decided the remaining hours of Tuesday were not enough time to rule on the guilt or innocence of Cahill. Today will be the seventh day of the trial. ● METRO/SHNS

Cops seek Grinch who steals trees

BOSTON. Police are asking for the public's help locating the person who stole Christmas trees from a local business.

The theft occurred late Friday or early Saturday morning from AJT Supplies in West Roxbury, according to police.

Store workers noticed Saturday morning that between 10 and 15 trees were taken from a storage shed, as well as stereo equipment and CDs. ● METRO

Cops: Man taped nude relatives

SALISBURY. A Salisbury man was ordered held on \$500,000 bail Monday for allegedly videotaping his nude relatives and posing as a health-care provider.

David Anderson, 44, is accused of secretly videotaping his naked female relatives between the ages of 10 and 13 at his beach house, the Newburyport Daily News reported. He is also accused of possessing child pornography.

He is facing similar charges in Connecticut. ● METRO

Hundreds ready to scour Boston streets for city's annual homeless census

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



► The city's homeless population decreased in 2011.

Tonight about 350 volunteers will fan out across every neighborhood in the city to conduct a count of Boston's homeless population for the 33rd annual City of Boston Homeless Census.

The census helps put a number to the unmet need for housing, emergency shelter beds, treatment resources and other services, according to a John Guilfoil, a spokesman for Mayor Thomas Menino.

This year Boston will be one of nine cities to pilot "Youth Count!," a new initiative of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to develop promising strategies for counting unaccompanied homeless youth up to 24 years old, a population that has historically been difficult to quantify.

-2.4%

The city's 2011 Homeless Census found a total of 6,647 homeless individuals living in Boston, a decrease of 2.4 percent from the 2010 census count. The national estimate is 633,782.

The youth count will take place over several days following the general street count so that youth staying in shelters or receiving services are counted, Guilfoil said.

On Monday, the Housing and Urban Development Department reported that the latest national count estimates the number of homeless at 633,782.

● METRO

Hub man hit by drunk driver in Foxboro

FOXBORO. A state trooper discovered a 30-year-old Boston man with a broken leg on a Foxboro road around 1 a.m. Tuesday, the victim of an alleged hit-and-run drunk driver.

Daniel Lishness, 27, of Southwick was tracked down and charged with driving under the influence of liquor, his second offense, and several other charges. ● METRO

City Hall to get 'ahtsy'

BOSTON. The second annual Holiday "Aht" Market will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at Boston City Hall, showing off the work of 20 Boston-area artisans, including photography, jewelry, graphic design, Native American apparel, paintings, pottery and stained glass. ● METRO

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WHAT TO BELIEVE?
AND WHY WE ARE HERE?

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Boston paving the way for smoother travel

Mayor Thomas Menino announced yesterday that the city paved nearly 40 miles of roadway during the 2012 construction season, reaching its highest repaving total in more than a decade and exceeding last year's total by more than 50 percent thanks to good weather and more investment in road quality.

"Better roads make for better neighborhoods," Menino said. "I commend the men and women of our Public Works Department for their hard work and efforts to give Boston residents the smooth roads and safe sidewalks they deserve."

In addition to expanding its repaving program, the Public Works Department made historic progress in repairing sidewalks and pedestrian ramps throughout the city.

Nearly 700,000 square feet of sidewalk were replaced citywide, and more than 1,300 pedestrian ramps were reconstructed — a 42-percent increase from the previous year.

"We wanted to improve conditions for drivers and pedestrians alike," said Joanne Massaro, commissioner of Public Works. "I'm proud of what we've been

Still not enough?

The Massachusetts Municipal Association's stance is that the state has consistently failed to provide enough funding for road paving and repairs.

On Sept. 7, in advance of next year's transportation financing debate on Beacon Hill, the group released a survey to all cities and towns asking for input on what needs repair.

The association estimates



▶ Paving crews were kept busy in 2012.

that cities and towns are facing a \$1.3 billion shortfall for transportation infrastructure needs.

40

Miles of roadway paved in 2012 — 50 percent more than 2011

700K

Square feet of sidewalk replaced citywide

1.3K

Pedestrian ramps were reconstructed — a 42-percent increase from 2011

20K

Bricks replaced in city buildings

able to do to improve walking conditions and access for those with disabilities, as well as address hundreds of ... requests

for basic sidewalk repairs."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Patriot. Charity



▶ Catherine D'Amato, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Food Bank, and New England Patriots alumnus Patrick Pass yesterday at the Greater Boston Food Bank as part of feeding America's "Give a Meal" program.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Pats alum scores against hunger

In an effort to raise awareness around hunger and the need for food assistance, three-time Super Bowl champion and former New England Patriot Patrick Pass helped pack donated food items at the Greater Boston Food Bank yesterday. Pass joined Bank of America employees to sort and pack the donated items for area families. According to the food bank, about one in nine community members are at risk of going hungry in Boston. **METRO**

In the news

Massachusetts students measure up around globe

MASSACHUSETTS. In a 2011 science and math test, Massachusetts eighth-graders outpaced many of their peers around the world, and in science nearly bested the international field. Bay State eighth-graders scored higher than the international average and higher than the U.S. average in both subjects, according to a study of international education. With an average score of 567 in science, Bay State students placed behind only Singapore. Bay State students scored an average of 561 in math, placing them at the top of all other participating U.S. states, and behind only South Korea, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Japan. **SHNS**

567 Average science score for Massachusetts students, behind only Singapore

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In the news

Rich-case scenario:
The \$300,000
iPhone case

The price of the world's most expensive iPhone 5 case is \$300,000. That's for the unique "Lotus" (phone not included) unveiled in November by Mischa Barton.

Sublime or ridiculous, the "Lotus" — crafted from rose gold, pink and white diamonds and the finest Italian leather — sits majestically at the top of an industry. Mike Morgan, senior analyst for mobile devices at ABI research, believes that "it's plausible to say that \$600 million worth of iPhone cas-

\$6.7B

Estimated value of the smartphone accessories industry for 2012



► Details of the Lotus case

es for Q4 will be sold globally because they're attached to the biggest device magnet on the planet."

The reason behind this market's growth is obvious: "Smartphones are taking over from feature phones and have a higher attach rate," says Morgan.

That's why owners are more willing to invest in accessorizing and personalizing their device, with Mischa being the latest celebrity to join the fashionable tech-accessories fold, which includes Versace, Mulberry, Marc by Marc Jacobs and even the traditional stationers Smythson, to rattle off a few. **MWN/RICHARD PECKETT**

Twitter adds photo tools to challenge Instagram

Twitter unveiled tools to adjust the color, size and style of photos uploaded via applications for Apple iPhones and Android phones, as the social-media site adds features to compete with Facebook's Instagram.

The photo filters, developed in partnership with software maker Aviary Inc., are part of an update to the mobile apps made available yesterday, San Francisco-based Twitter said in a blog post.

Twitter is letting users add pictures, video and audio to their postings as it steps up competition with Facebook, which bought photo-sharing service Instagram earlier this year. Last week, Instagram disabled a feature called Twitter Cards for showcasing photos and other media. The move was seen as a step that better



► Twitter's filters mimic the features that has defined Instagram.

prepares Instagram for generating revenue from its own services by driving traffic to its website.

Twitter's updated photo-enhancing apps will probably

bring more exposure to Aviary, a New York-based startup with backing from Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos and LinkedIn Corp. co-founder Reid Hoffman. **BLOOMBERG**

Zuckerberg saw the importance

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg similarly argued for the importance



of photo-sharing when he shocked Silicon Valley earlier this year by

making an offer to Instagram valued at the time at \$1 billion.

Twitter's new photo effects will be incorporated as part of an update to the Twitter's iPhone and Android apps, available beginning Monday, the company said. **REUTERS**

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In the news

Delta buys 49% Virgin Atlantic Stake for NYC-UK service

ATLANTA/LONDON. Delta Air Lines agreed to buy a 49 percent stake in Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways for \$360 million to boost its share of the lucrative trans-Atlantic travel market.



The carriers will begin a joint venture on 31 daily round-trip flights

between North America and the U.K. as they use Virgin Atlantic's base at London's Heathrow airport, Europe's busiest, according to a statement today. The Virgin Atlantic stake has been held by Singapore Airlines since 1999. **BLOOMBERG**

Throngs in Michigan protest union dues: 'There Will Be Blood'

Michigan lawmakers approved bills to prohibit mandatory union dues in workplaces as thousands of chanting protesters thronged the Lansing Capitol.

"This is the day when Michigan freed its workers," Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons, an Alto Republican, said today during debate on two bills, one for public employees and another for private ones.

If Republican Governor Rick Snyder signs the so-called Right-to-Work measures as promised, Michigan would become the 24th state to enact



► Union members from around the country rallied at the Michigan State Capitol to protest a vote on Right-to-Work legislation yesterday in Lansing.

GETTY IMAGES

such legislation, and the second this year after Indiana. The change would be a practical and symbolic rout in a stronghold of organized labor in the U.S., and opponents said it presaged political warfare.

"There will be blood," Representative Douglas Geiss, a Democrat from Taylor, said in debate.

Labor supporters converged on the statehouse as lawmakers debated the measures for the state that's home to the United Auto Workers and the three largest U.S. automakers. **BLOOMBERG**

Cayman Island police arrest premier over credit card use

Cayman Islands Premier Mckeeva Bush was arrested for misuse of a government credit card and importing explosive substances, the Caribbean country's police said.

Bush, 57, was taken into custody at 7 a.m. today at his home in West Bay, according to a statement e-mailed by the police. The premier, who took office in 2009 and has been in the legislature since 1984, is

known in the assembly as the "Father of the House," according to his official biography.

Officials with the ruling United Democratic Party are meeting to determine how the government will proceed, the Cayman Compass newspaper reported on its website, citing sources it didn't name. Deputy Premier Julianna O'Connor-Connelly would serve in Bush's place. **BLOOMBERG**

\$1M

Democrats failed to strip from bills appropriations to administer the measures. This shields the laws from repeal through public referendum.

'Civil war'

Bill Bagwell, a 55-year-old UAW member from Westland, said the measure would create friction at his General Motors plant in Ypsilanti. Members who pay union dues would detest those

who enjoy the benefits of the contract but don't contribute, he said.

"It'll create civil war," Bagwell said.

Officials spent days gearing up for crowds brought out by the legislature's sudden action

last week to give initial approval to the anti-dues bills, which exclude police and firefighters.

The crowd numbered more than 10,000, according to State Police Inspector Gene Adamczyk, with more buses still arriving. **BLOOMBERG**

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THE LOTTERY

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012

In the news

Boehner stands firm but hopeful on 'fiscal cliff'

WASHINGTON. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner offered no concrete signs of progress yesterday on the "fiscal cliff" talks but said he remained hopeful that both sides would reach an agreement by the end-of-year deadline.



Amid signs that the White House and Boehner's office are making headway in the talks, Boehner repeated his now-familiar call for President Barack Obama to offer a new proposal to avert the automatic steep tax hikes and spending cuts set for the end of the year unless Congress intervenes.

"I'm an optimist. I'm hope-

ful we can reach an agreement," Boehner said on the House floor.

While Boehner demanded more specific spending cuts from Obama, White House spokesman Jay Carney said the administration had submitted extensive proposals to reduce spending but Republicans had not offered specifics on increasing revenues.

"There is a deal out there that's possible," Carney told reporters. It could include reduced spending, more revenues and tax reform as long as Republicans accepted higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans, he said.

"We do believe the parameters of a compromise are pretty clear," Carney said.

The pace of staff-level talks has quickened since Boehner met on Sunday with Obama at the White House in a meeting that the Republican described as "nice" and "cordial."

But Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said it would be difficult to reach an agreement before Christmas.

REUTERS

HSBC to pay \$1.9 billion US fine in money-laundering case

HSBC Holdings agreed to pay a record \$1.92 billion in fines to U.S. authorities for allowing itself to be used to launder a river of drug money flowing out of Mexico and other banking lapses. Mexico's Sinaloa cartel and Colombia's Norte del Valle cartel between them laundered \$881 million through HSBC and a Mexican unit, the U.S. Justice Department said yesterday.

In a deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department, the bank acknowledged that it failed to maintain an effective program against money laundering and failed to conduct basic due diligence on some of its account holders.

Under the agreement, which was reported by Reuters last week, the bank agreed to take steps to fix the problems, forfeit \$1.256 billion and retain a compliance monitor. The bank also agreed to pay \$665

A place to launder

Despite the known risks of doing business in Mexico, the bank put the country in its lowest risk category, which excluded \$670 billion in transactions from the monitoring systems, according to the documents.

million in civil penalties to regulators including to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve, and the Treasury Department.

"We accept responsibility for our past mistakes. We have said we are profoundly sorry for them, and we do so again. The HSBC of today is a fundamentally different organization from the one that made those mistakes," HSBC Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said.

REUTERS



► HSBC told investors it had set aside \$1.5 billion to cover fines or penalties and warned that costs could be significantly higher.

Fines to fix the problems

Under the agreement, which was reported by Reuters last week, the bank agreed to take steps to fix the problems:

\$1.256B

Will be forfeited by HSBC, and the bank will retain a compliance monitor

\$665M

In civil penalties to regulators including to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Fed, and the Treasury

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In the news

New electronics inspired by nature

Scientists in Switzerland have come up with a material mimicking the way tendons connect to bones, which could speed the development of stretchy, wearable electronic devices.

The stretchable electronics industry is in its infancy, but devices that are able to flex without breaking could revolutionize products from smartphones and solar cells to medical implants.

But while circuits and wiring are quite happy on rigid surfaces like those in a tablet computer, they break easily when combined with materials that stretch.

"You have two materials with very different mechanical properties," said Andre Studart, researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. "The challenge is to bridge these different properties." **REUTERS**

Yahoo CEO unveils overhaul of e-mail

Yahoo rolled out new versions of its popular Web e-mail on Tuesday, the first major product makeover since Chief Executive Marissa Mayer took the helm of the struggling Internet company five months ago.

Yahoo released new versions of its Yahoo Mail product for smartphones and tablets — in keeping with Mayer's focus on mobile devices — and a revamped version of its Web-based mail product for PC users that cuts out ancillary features and that the company said delivers faster performance.

Yahoo is the No. 1 Web e-mail product in the United States and No. 3 worldwide, behind Google's Gmail and Microsoft's Hotmail, according to comScore.

But the number of unique



► Mayer

Quoted

"You told us loud and clear that you wanted fewer distractions when it comes to e-mail."

MAYER, IN A POST ON YAHOO'S OFFICIAL BLOG

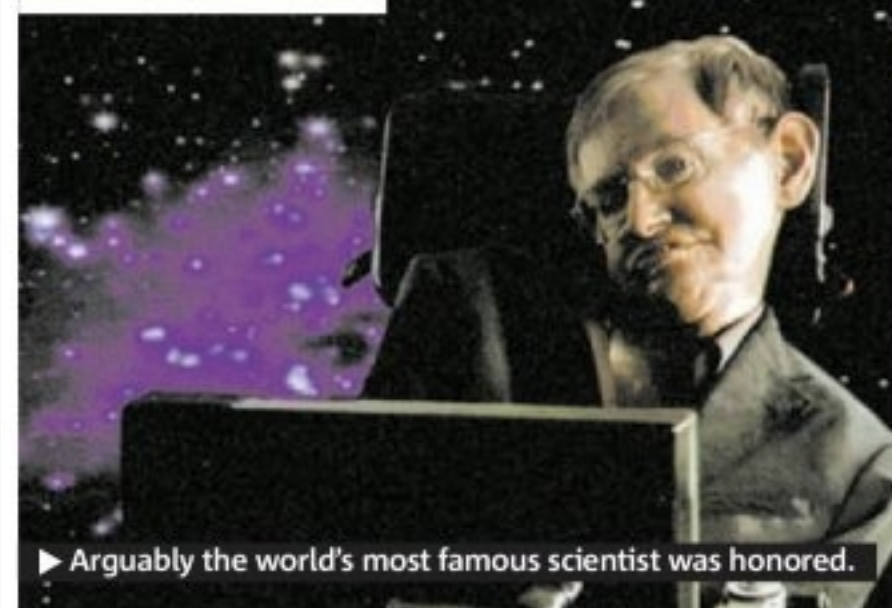
users of Yahoo e-mail declined 16 percent in November from a year earlier in the United States and 7 percent worldwide, according to comScore.

Analysts say the decline owes partly to a younger generation of Internet users who prefer to communicate with text messages on their phones rather than e-mail.

Mayer, a former Google executive who is widely admired in Silicon Valley for her Web-product savvy, is moving to revitalize Yahoo's various Web products and reverse years of declining revenue.

She has said her top priority is to create a coherent mobile strategy for Yahoo and that she intends for at least half of the company's technical workforce to be working on mobile products. **REUTERS**

Science. Big prize



► Arguably the world's most famous scientist was honored.

FREDERICK N. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Hawking, CERN win \$3M prize

Stephen Hawking, the British cosmologist who urged people to "be curious" at the Paralympics opening ceremony, has landed the richest prize in science for his work on how black holes emit radiation. Hawking won \$3 million from Russian Internet entrepreneur Yuri Milner, who set up his prize this year to address what he regards as a lack of recognition in the modern world for leading scientists. Along with Hawking, a second \$3 million award has gone to the scientists behind the discovery this year of a new subatomic particle that behaves like the theoretical Higgs boson. **REUTERS**

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THE WORD



Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) dorothy.robinson@metro.us

A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a \$500,000, 16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to *Us Weekly*.

Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.



► The soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. Pitt have six kids.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell

The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video in 2005; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended in 2010.

Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.



► Brad who?

Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston

The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of "Wanderlust," got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed

with an 8-carat ring, worth an estimated \$500,000.

Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.



Stewart

Justin Mikita and Jesse Tyler Ferguson

The deets: "Modern Family" star Jesse Tyler Ferguson and his lawyer fiancé Justin Mikita got engaged in July at Sofia Vergara's Mexican birthday party. The two broke the news

in September in a video for Tie the Knot, an organization the couple launched to support marriage equality.

Wedding date: Ferguson told *E!* they will be getting married in 2013. "I did go get a *Martha Stewart Weddings* magazine, but it's really a lot of over-the-top stuff," he said.

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin

The deets: The two lovebirds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.

Wedding date: It already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The "Hunger Games" actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring.

Wedding date: Eh, you REALLY think this one is going to happen?



Hemsworth and Cyrus

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger

The deets: Oh, Canada! The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickelback, told a radio station about Lavigne.

Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Talking points

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in "On the Road" are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the *Huffington Post*. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then 'On the Road' probably isn't for them anyway." Stewart

is a diehard fan of the **Jack Kerouac** novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book," she says.

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with **Harry Styles** appears to already be causing strife among

his One Direction bandmates. So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band traveled separately, according to *E!* News. "The rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They had just finished a huge concert in N.Y. and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo

irritated them a bit."

Cruise's Christmas includes all the kids

Tom Cruise is spending Christmas with the kids, he tells *People* magazine. "We have got lots of very special things planned," Cruise said while at the London premiere of "Jack Reacher," his first public appearance since his divorce from **Katie Holmes**. Those special plans involve his children **Bella**, 20, and **Connor**, 17, plus **Suri**, the 6-year-old daughter he shares with Holmes. "We are all going to be together."



The feed ...

► Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kirstie Alley is packing heat, Niall Horan could use some excitement, Mark Ruffalo is looking forward to getting back to work and Albert Brooks is discovering the power of silence.

@kirstiealley
Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM...notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window

@NiallOfficial
Sittin' at home! Bored to death!

@Mruff221
I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.

@AlbertBrooks
By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.



Kirstie Alley



'Tis the season for film premieres

1: Rosamund Pike and Tom Cruise posed on the red carpet at the world premiere of their new film, "Jack Reacher," on Monday in London.

2: Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts attended the Los Angeles premiere of their latest flick, "The Impossible," on Monday in Hollywood.

3: Luciana Baroso and husband Matt Damon were at the premiere of Damon's new film, "Promised Land," on Thursday in Los Angeles.

4: Director Kathryn Bigelow was with **Jessica Chastain** at the premiere of "Zero Dark Thirty" on Monday in Hollywood.

5: Liv Tyler wowed at the New York premiere of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" on Thursday in New York City.

1: CLAIRE GREENWAY/GETTY IMAGES
2: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES
3: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
4: MICHAEL DUCKNER/GETTY IMAGES
5: ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES



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TV watch list



► Gabby Douglas is one of Barbara Walters' "10 Most Fascinating People of 2012."

ABC/ DONNA EVENSEN/ET

'The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2012'

SPECIAL. Barbara Walters sits down with the year's headline-makers, from Chris Christie to Gabby Douglas to "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James, which should make for some awkward conversation. 9:30 p.m., ABC

'12-12-12: The Concert for Sandy Relief'

SPECIAL. Top-flight entertainers including Bruce Springsteen, The Rolling Stones, Bon Jovi, Kanye West and Alicia Keys perform in a fundraising effort to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy. 7:30 p.m., check listings at www.121212concert.org/broadcast

'Amish Mafia'

REALITY. Taking neighborhood watch to a whole new level, the men of Lancaster, Pa., who use unconventional measures to protect their Amish community are profiled in this questionable series — since when do the Amish drive cars, anyway? Series premiere, 9 p.m., Discovery

'Arrow'

DRAMA. Oliver throws a Christmas party, but not everyone's in the mood to celebrate. Perhaps a flash of those abs could convince them otherwise? 8 p.m., The CW • AMBER RAY

Not lost in translation



► From left, Celeste Oliva, Liz Eng, Chen Tang, Tiffany Chen and Barlow Adamson star in "Chinglish."

► 'Chinglish' may be all about having difficulty getting your point across in a new culture, but the Lyric's interpretation gets that point across in a very funny way

The flawed English-Chinese interpretations in "Chinglish" are hilarious.

Watching an interpreter twist the Mandarin Chinese "my hands are tied" into "he is in bondage" or "I love you" into "frog loves to pee" is great fun. But David Henry Hwang's blisteringly funny satire, currently at the Lyric Stage, is anything but a one-note yuckfest.

At its core, "Chinglish" is an intelligent, irreverent commentary on the challenges of cross-cultural relationships. While bumbling through, both parties quickly learn that language is hardly the only barrier to living, loving and doing business on foreign soil. Though neither side has any problem getting into bed (both literally and figu-

The plot

Daniel Cavanaugh — an American businessman seeking to explore the largely untapped Chinese market of those in need of accurate signage — en-

lists English consultant Peter Timms to help navigate his way. Though language is a most formidable barrier, it's hardly the only obstacle they encounter trying to get their big breaks.

ratively) with someone for the sake of the deal, the cultural ramifications of doing so are remarkably dissimilar.

Director Larry Coen finds the balance between humor and cultural mores in a production that, according to one experienced audience member at our performance, is "exactly what it's like for an American doing business in China." Even obscure in-jokes about treating Mr. Bubble as a "luxury item" ring true in one of the Lyric's finest, funniest productions to date.

Barlow Adamson (Daniel Cavanaugh) and Celeste Oliva (Xi Yan) are spot-on in their performances as an American man and Chinese woman willing to do whatever it takes to get the deal done. Alexander Platt nicely explores a multitude of di-

mensions in Peter Timms, the English "consultant" also looking to reinvent himself in this newfound land of opportunity. But Chen Tang gets the biggest and most well-deserved laughs for his riotous turn as Bing.

If you learn nothing else from this uproarious, poignant farce, always remember to bring your own interpreter.

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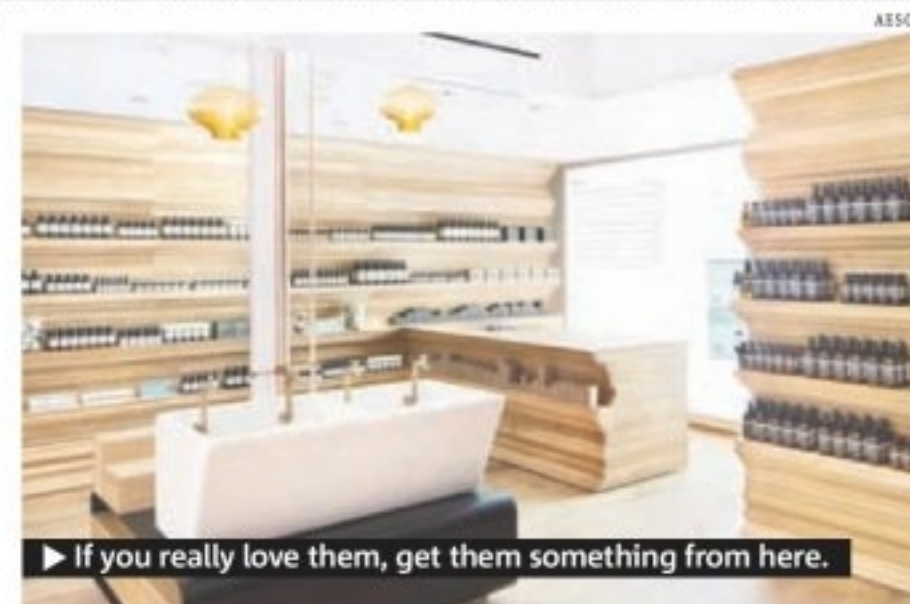
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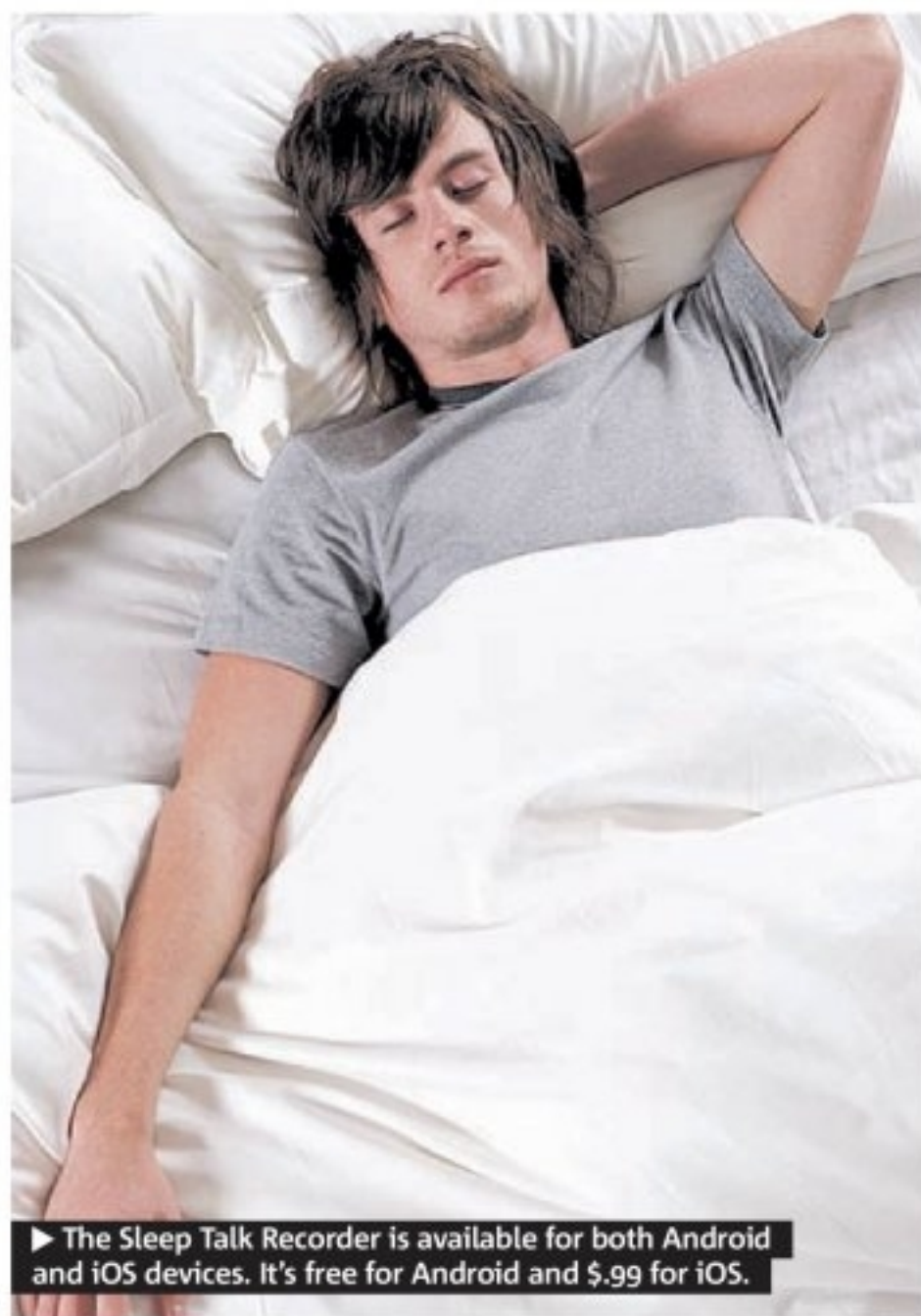
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► The Sleep Talk Recorder is available for both Android and iOS devices. It's free for Android and \$.99 for iOS.

GETTY IMAGES

Talking in your sleep? There's an app for that

The average person will spend about a third of his or her life asleep. And while researchers continue to look for answers as to just why it is we sleep, a lot of questions still remain unanswered. Why do we dream? What do dreams actually mean? And why do we talk in our sleep?

As with most predicaments these days, there's an app for it.

It's called Sleep Talk Recorder and it records everything you say while you snooze. The app initially launched in Sweden in 2010 and has racked up almost 2 million downloads to date. The Sleep Talk Recorder has since trickled its way into the United States and now the folks behind the app are hoping to make a documentary out of the stories that surface from its users.

Quoted

"I was chatting with a friend about three years ago about a weird dream I had just had. We both thought, 'Well, there must be a way to use your phone to record what you say in your sleep.'" LINDAU

"I was chatting with a friend about three years ago about a weird dream I had just had," says Martin Lindau, co-founder of Mad In Sweden, the company behind the app. "We both thought, 'Well, there must be a way to use your phone to record what you say in your sleep.'"

The app only records sounds — usually in short, five-second integrals — so there's no blank recording. Once you wake up, you can listen to the snippets

you said during the night and share them to the main feed for other users to see.

The main focus of the documentary, Lindau says, is to capture stories where the app has inspired or helped someone. He cites a recent case in New York.

"This man was having sleeping problems. Every night, his dog — a labrador, I think — would lick his face and wake him up. He tried taking it outside, feeding it — nothing," he said. "He couldn't figure out

why he kept waking him up."

Lindau says the man tried the app and discovered the next morning that he was the problem. During the night, he made a series of unpleasant, growl-like snores — which is likely what caused his dog to wake him up.

"The dog was just trying to take care of his owner!" Lindau says. "Those are the kind of stories we're curious to find."

The documentary is still in its early phases, though Lindau is hoping for a December 2013 completion date. However, he's still open to hearing from people who have had unique discoveries using the app.

ERIC LARSON FOR

Mashable

The Social Media Guide

In the news

Facebook gifts now available to every user in US

Facebook is rolling out its new Gifts service to everyone in the U.S., the company announced yesterday — just in time for the holidays.

The social network first announced plans to relaunch a gift-giving service in September and has since added partners ranging from Pandora to Brook-



stone. Until now, however, Facebook Gifts has been in beta and invite-only.

Starting today, any user in the U.S. will be able to send friends real gifts through Facebook that get delivered to their door. There are gifts in a range of categories, including food, baby products and kitchen goods. Facebook also announced that it has added a wine category for users who are of drinking age.

In addition, Facebook users now have the option to use the

service to donate to the Robin Hood Foundation's relief efforts for Hurricane Sandy, as well as make donations to other non-profits like Blue Star Families and Donors Choose.

Aside from giving users another way to show appreciation for one another on the social network, the new service is also a gift to Facebook's investors, as it has potential to serve as a significant additional source of revenue for the company.

SETH FIEGERMAN FOR

Mashable

The Social Media Guide

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SimplePure HCG is paying you by the pound!

SimplePure Nutrition is looking for participants in their ground breaking HCG weight loss program. HCG is a chemical produced by the human body that helps use fat more efficiently. Until recently, HCG was only available by injection from a medical professional. Now with its advanced liquid formula, SimplePure Nutrition has made it available in easy to use sublingual drops. Simply put the drops under your tongue and you'll start to experience weight loss of up to 1-2 lbs per day and get paid for it!

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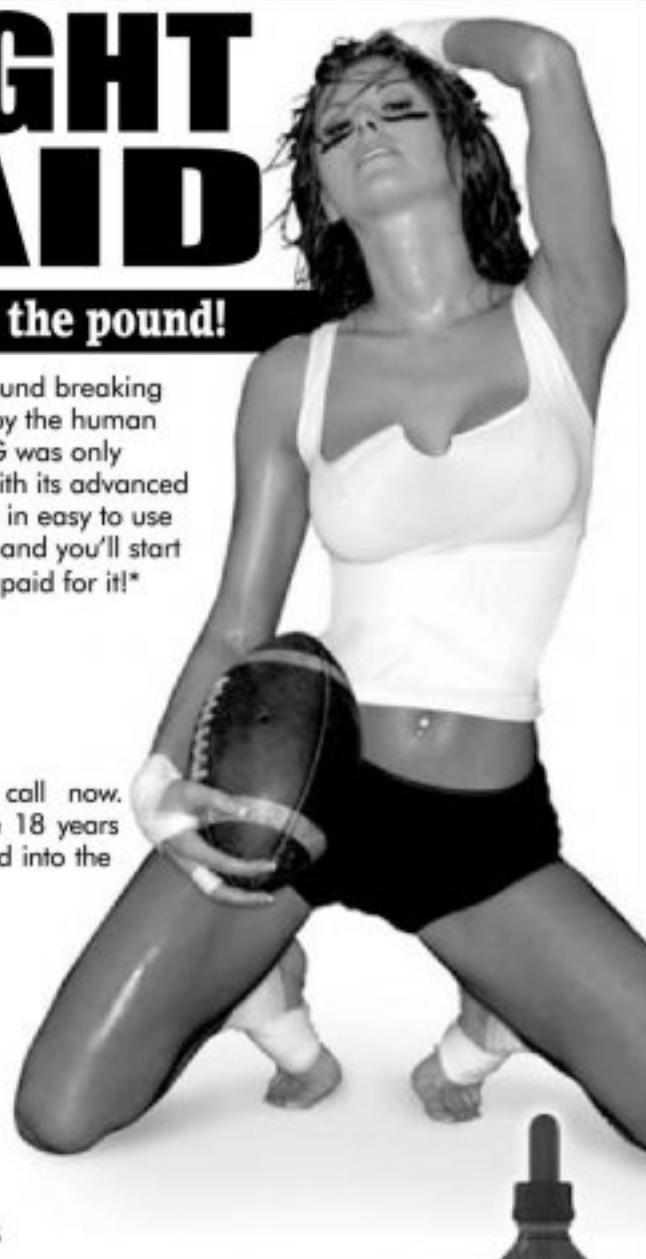
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What's colorless, odorless and deadly?

I know about fire safety, but how can I prevent carbon monoxide poisoning?

Approximately 200 people in the U.S. die and as many as 40,000 people seek medical attention every year for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, a life-threatening condition that results from exposure to the colorless, odorless carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide is a product of burning organic fuels (propane gas, kerosene, wood, oil, gasoline, etc.) in fireplaces, stoves, propane heaters, furnaces and automobile or generator engines. The risk increases in winter and after power outages, as people try to warm their homes and discover (often too late) that they have a faulty furnace or inadequate exhaust for a fireplace, or when they improperly use a generator indoors.

Carbon monoxide blocks the transport of oxygen in the bloodstream, leading to oxygen

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STOCKBYTE

deprivation for vital organs. Symptoms may include: headache, fatigue, lightheadedness, nausea, confusion, a rapid heartbeat and breathlessness. Symptoms can often be mistaken for a flu-like illness, so recognizing carbon monoxide poisoning is sometimes challenging. Prolonged exposure at high concentrations can result in death if not detected and treated promptly.

Prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning is easy, and it's the most important means of avoiding the consequences. All levels of your home should have a plug-in CO detector/alarm with battery backup. Detectors are available at almost any hardware or home supply store. A good way to remember to change your batteries is to do so when you set your clocks for daylight savings (this is when you should also change your smoke detector batteries). Every year, have any heating systems — your furnace, hot water heater and

gas/oil/coal-burning appliances — as well as chimneys inspected by a trained technician to ensure adequate venting and exhaust. Don't use any fuel-burning devices — propane or kerosene heaters, gasoline generators or gas stoves — as a source of heat indoors, ever. Finally, it may be tempting to warm up your car while it's in the garage on cold mornings, but even with the garage door open, CO from the exhaust can seep into your home.

If you suspect that you or a family member may have been exposed or have symptoms from CO poisoning, go to your nearest hospital emergency department for evaluation and treatment with oxygen therapy as soon as possible.

— **Mark Melrose, DO**, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. E-mail him your questions at askdrmark@metro.us.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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Your problems may be Varicose Veins!

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- Do you have swelling in your legs or ankles? ☐
- Do you have skin discoloration on your legs or ankles (Blue/Brown)? ☐
- Is the skin on your legs red and dry? ☐
- Do you experience cramps in your legs, especially at nights? ☐
- Do you have non-healing wounds in your ankle areas? ☐
- Do you have spider veins on your legs and/or ankles? ☐
- Do the veins in your legs appear very dark blue or purple? ☐
- Is the pain in your legs worse after sitting or standing a long period of time? ☐
- Did you any of your parents or grandparents have varicose veins? ☐
- Do you have restless legs? ☐

If you have checked one or more of the boxes, please do yourself a favor and call USA Vein Clinics.

Do Not Postpone Treatment

Varicose veins can start out as a seemingly small problem, but left untreated, can become much more serious. Complications of varicose veins may include ulcers. These may form on the skin near the affected veins, particularly near the ankles. They are caused by fluid build-up in the dysfunctional veins, and can be extremely painful.

Dysfunctional veins can also increase the risk of blood clots. Patients may experience a swelling in the leg, which may indicate a blood clot. Left untreated, these clots can travel through the bloodstream and lodge near the heart or lungs, causing potentially life-threatening health problems.

If you have already decided you'd like to receive vein treatments or would like to get a diagnosis, simply schedule an appointment with USA Vein Clinics today by calling

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<http://www.usaveinclinics.com>

Today in medicine



► A new Cornell study shows that not everybody is smitten with an organic label.

Organic labels don't always impress

Study subjects: 215 students in part one of the study and 156 students in part two

Location of study: U.S.

Results: Researchers at Cornell University and the University of Michigan did a two-part study on the "halo effect" of organic foods — the idea that an organic food label makes a consumer think the food is healthier than a food with a conventional label. They found that many par-

ticipants deemed the food with the organic label healthier, but also expressed low expectations on whether it would taste good. The low taste expectations were especially prevalent among participants who didn't have much concern about the environment. The second part of the study looked at why people who did care about the environment might view organic labels negatively.

Significance: "The halo effect hinges on the values of the perceiver," says Cornell researcher

Jonathon Schuldt. "It's not the case that you can label a food organic and expect that everyone will perceive it more positively. Under certain circumstances, ethical labels could have an unintended backfire effect."

Childless couples die earlier

Study subjects: 21,276 childless couples registered for IVF

Location of study: Denmark

Results: A study published online in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health found that childless couples successfully treated for infertility — meaning they eventually had children — had longer lifespans than couples who remained without children. The rate of mental health problems in couples who adopted children was also half the rate of such problems in couples without any kids.

Significance: Interestingly, the rates of mental illness were similar for couples who had children of their own and those who did not have any children.

● LINDA CLARKE

Pilates Reformer

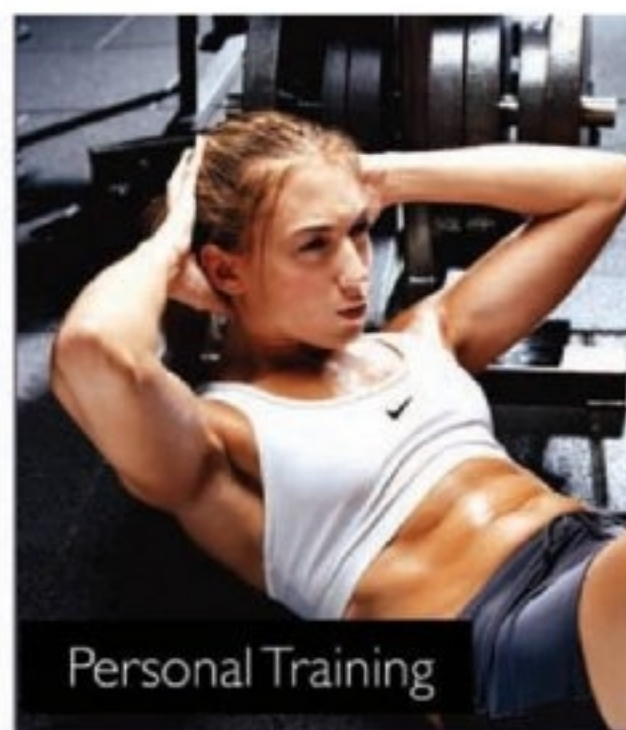


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Fewer wars, fewer wounded to care for in the aftermath

Over the next 50 or 60 years, American taxpayers will be paying for the disabled veterans of past military actions. Let's hope we have no more.

It has been my own personal observation that when the central government is confronted with a major national security issue, it spasmodically reacts by increasing the size of the military — both head count and material. During these spasmodic periods, personnel are recruited who are more susceptible to disabilities than the norm.

The government must address the intake side of the equation, if it is to be successful in reducing the number of the disabled in

the future.

RETIRED PFC. ROBERT A. KEHL

Americans: Just like the Whos, but with less crazy hair

RE: "THE BEST HOLIDAY MOVIE? 'MIRACLE ON CAPITOL HILL'"

(METRO, DEC. 11) Over the past few days, I have read letters stating that people's holiday wishes include politicians sitting down together, but Boehner (and the GOP) consistently act like the Grinch. You see, all the Whos in Whoville love their socialist presents from big government that create their holiday we call retirement. But the Grinch hates government and socialism. To him, nothing's funny, especially the poor, ill and elderly get-

ting his money. So he got an awful idea that he was quite fond of, to create a cliff made of tax cuts and sequestration to throw their presents off of. But the cliff wasn't too tall, the Whos not too scared, to stand up and fight, their retirement to spare. So to the mayor of Whoville, I say with smile, stand up for our holiday, don't cross the aisle.

COREY SAGENICH, VIA E-MAIL

Israelis claiming land with a deed they wrote

RE: "EU NEEDS TO GET ITS PRIORITIES STRAIGHT" (METRO, DEC. 10) Letter writer Arthur Horn needs to get his historical facts together. The Canaanites were in

Jerusalem before the Israelis. This is according to Jewish scriptures. The Romans built great cities out of London and Paris, and the Americas were populated by native people. The Palestinians have been in the so-called promised land for about 2,000 years. The Romans destroyed and sacked the second temple and built the Colosseum with the temple loot. Emperor Titus exiled the Israelis from Palestine in the first century. The world is what it is today, and the Israelis cannot use a book written by their ancestors to justify removing the long-term residents of Palestine because their God promised them a territory occupied by Canaanites, which they had to ethnic cleanse. Almost every nationality would be able to justify moving into another nationality's territory based on historical facts or self-created history if we were to take the Israelis' right to Palestine as a legal precedent to do so.

CARLTON NICKERSON, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♈ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. You're entering a cycle where many of your hopes and expectations will have excellent chances of success. Operate to the best of your abilities, and luck will fill in the thin spots.

♊ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. Some beneficial happenings are going on behind the scenes. They may be hidden from your view, but don't worry — some delightful surprises are in the offing.

♋ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Friends will start to play more prominent roles in your affairs. As long as you keep them out of areas pertaining to your finances, their input will be positive.

♌ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. You're now entering a good cycle for achievement, but you might be the last person to realize this. Don't allow negative thinking to put restrictions on your possibilities.

♍ Aries March 21-April 19. Some special knowledge you'll gain through a personal experience will be used to your advantage over and over again in the coming weeks. It'll give you the edge you've needed.

♎ Taurus April 20-May 20. You could be steered toward something that could turn out to be financially beneficial. If you should run into a

potential opportunity, check it out. ♊ Gemini May 21-June 20. Some kind of agreement you work out could have a lot of promising potential that, once implemented, will be long-lasting if you make sure it's as good for the others as it is for you.

♋ Cancer June 21-July 22. An interesting development could occur where your work or career is concerned. What transpires will go a long way toward helping you fulfill an ambitious objective.

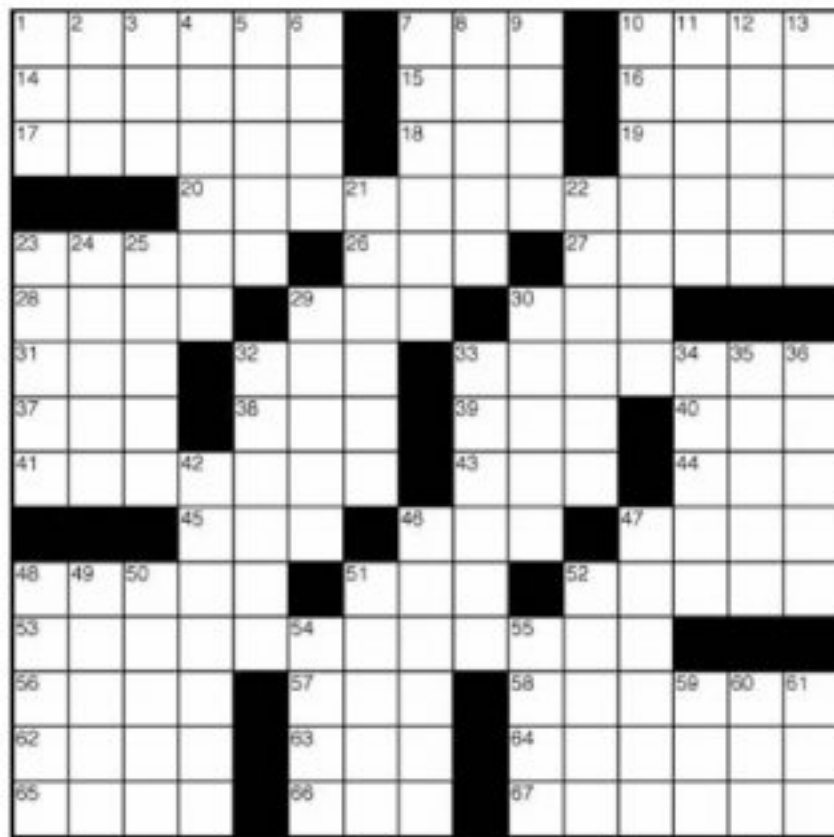
♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 22. This could be an unusually good day for you to reorganize a situation that is personally important. Adjustments can be made to help you achieve whatever it is you need or want.

♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Before starting another new endeavor, complete the ones you've already got underway. When you finally finish them, the results will exceed your expectations.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Do not discount any new idea or concept you get, even if some of them are a bit grandiose. You're in a cycle where thinking big could be lucky for you. ♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Certain of your financial transactions could start to take an upward swing. As long as you don't allow extravagance to rule the roost, profitable results are likely. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across

- 1 Raised with effort
- 7 24-hr. teller
- 10 Jargon
- 14 Disinclined
- 15 Glamorous wrap
- 16 Survey finding
- 17 Friars' garb
- 18 College entrance exam
- 19 Domino dots
- 20 Subtle intimidation (2 wds.)
- 23 Michael Caine role
- 26 "Have you — wool?"
- 27 Ticket info
- 28 Mrs. Charles
- 29 A-Team member (2 wds.)
- 30 Ltd. relative
- 31 Cosmic force
- 32 Brief craze
- 33 Tease (2 wds.)
- 37 — take forever!
- 38 When Paris sizzles
- 39 Off-rd. truck
- 40 Pub pint
- 41 Thick soup
- 43 La Brea — pits
- 44 ER personnel
- 45 Clark or Orbison
- 46 Writer John — Passos
- 47 A word to kitty
- 48 One kind of flight
- 51 Klutz
- 52 Basketball figure
- 53 Rusty-looking plant (2 wds.)
- 56 Army status
- 57 Jacques' friend
- 58 Panoramas
- 62 Europe-Asia range
- 63 RMN and HST, once
- 64 Revises
- 65 Diamond corner
- 66 "Quiet!"
- 67 Medium-sized sofa



Down

- 1 Nasty laugh
- 2 Role for Madonna
- 3 Winter mo.
- 4 Odd facts
- 5 Ms. Lauder
- 6 He loved Lucy
- 7 Not around
- 8 Sycophant
- 9 Marshal Dillon
- 10 Whim
- 11 March sign
- 12 Hindu kingdom
- 13 Kind of bud
- 21 Storeroom for food
- 22 Long for
- 23 Funny business
- 24 Very reluctant
- 25 Bilbo's heir
- 29 Ahoy, —!
- 30 Specks
- 32 Bogart's topper
- 33 Defer (2 wds.)
- 34 Silly comedy
- 35 Humerus neighbors
- 36 Snug retreats
- 42 Crease
- 46 Sweet roll
- 47 Day's end
- 48 Cancel a launch
- 49 Beauty pageant prize
- 50 Pavlova and Freud
- 51 Energy
- 52 Soot
- 54 Dallas hoopsters, slangily
- 55 Festive nights
- 59 Explosive abbr.
- 60 Lemon cooler
- 61 NNW opposite



SUDOKU LEVEL: EASY



SUDOKU LEVEL: HARD

Solution to yesterday's crossword



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HEALTH GUIDE

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Astigmatism Correction Now Available

Am I a candidate?

If you have been considering vision correction and were discouraged because you were told you have astigmatism and your correction was not treatable with LASIK, New England Eye Center has fantastic news for you. Not only can we treat Astigmatism with the

iLASIK™ procedure, the cornea trained physicians at New England Eye Center now offer the most advanced procedures available to treat a variety of vision correction disorders.

What is astigmatism?

Astigmatism is a condition where vision is blurred by

asymmetric steepening of the cornea or crystalline lens. Patients with astigmatism may not only notice blurring of vision at both distance and near, but can also note shadowing or ghosting of images as well. These vision symptoms are caused when light entering the eye is refracted or bent to

multiple points in the eye, resulting in an out of focus image. Astigmatism is very common, and occurs in about 1 in 3 people.

Astigmatism can be easily corrected by contact lenses or eyeglasses. However, if glasses or contacts are troublesome, or not tolerated, there is another option. New

England Eye Center offers many alternatives to glasses and contacts for the correction of all types of refractive error, including astigmatism. Custom LASIK and PRK are available not only for near and far sightedness, but for the correction of astigmatism as well. For cataract patients, astigmatism can be either treated with incisions made during cataract surgery, or with implantation of advanced lens technology.

Why should I have my Astigmatism treated with a surgical alternative to contacts and glasses?

If left uncorrected Astigmatism can cause eye strain, headaches and difficulties in everyday tasks from reading to working to outdoor activities. While glasses and many contact lenses are on the market to effectively correct astigmatism, if you are uncomfortable in either, it is important for you to know you have options. While glasses are your safest alternative, many people either are not able to tolerate their entire astigmatism correction in eyeglasses, or do not achieve the clear vision they desire or need for everyday living. Contact lenses, worn and cared for properly are a wonderful alternative to glasses. However, contact lenses are not without risks, and are not well tolerated by everyone. Many people are contact lens intolerant, whether due to underlying dry eye, reaction to contact lens solutions, or corneal inflammation or infections due to contact lens wear. For these patients, contact lenses are no longer an

option and eyeglasses do not allow for functioning at the highest level.

What other procedures are available to me to correct my vision?

The physicians at New England Eye Center routinely perform LASIK and PRK, however there are lens procedures for patients which can also provide freedom from contacts and glasses. The Visian implantable collamer lens, which has the added benefit of being removable, can treat a wide variety of patients who are nearsighted and it is also a wonderful alternative for patients with dry eye issues or people who do not qualify for LASIK. For patients who have added reading glasses to their vision correction needs, many options are available, including monovision and conductive keratoplasty. For patients with a cataract, intraocular lenses are available that offer improved freedom from glasses at distance, intermediate, and near vision. These include the Crystalens accommodating lens, as well as the Restor and Tecnis multifocal lenses. For our cataract patients with astigmatism, Toric intraocular lenses can be implanted to neutralize their astigmatism.

LASIK & Beyond

Taking Human Sight To The Next Level

Thanks to recent breakthroughs in laser and lens implant technology at New England Eye Center, our pioneering eye surgeons are helping set new standards in the field of vision correction. Our commitment to leading edge vision-correcting technology is surpassed only by our dedication to personal patient care.

From the latest advancements in Laser Vision Correction (LASIK/PRK) – to exciting developments like our 'Implantable Contact Lens' called Visian ICL – New England Eye Center has the experience you can trust and the technology you can rely on. During the past decade, our doctors have played an integral role in helping LASIK become the safest, most advanced and successful method of vision correction ever developed. Today, New England Eye Center performs the same methods of LASIK & PRK that are approved by NASA for our astronauts and by the US military for fighter pilots, Navy Seals and frontline troops.

In addition to our LASIK and PRK procedures, New England Eye Center is also among a select inner circle of surgeons trained and qualified to offer you access to the Visian ICL. In layman's terms, this 15-minute outpatient procedure is very similar to having a contact lens placed inside your eye vs. on the surface of your cornea. Because there is no tissue removed in the Visian ICL procedure, vision is usually sharper, clearer and more vivid than wearing contact lenses or glasses. If necessary, the Visian ICL is also reversible.

LASIK and the Visian ICL may not be ideal for patients in their late 40s, 50s or 60s. That is because around age 40, changes in the human lens within the eye start to affect our near vision. That is why most 'Baby Boomers' now require reading glasses or even bifocals. Fortunately, new multifocal lens implants – and specially designed Toric implants to treat your astigmatism – are now available at New England Eye Center. Patients undergoing our Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) not only SEE better, they LOOK younger and will never have to worry about developing cataracts.

For patients considering cataract surgery, the dream of Laser Cataract Surgery has become reality at New England Eye Center. We are currently among only the top 3% of practices in the country to offer patients the added safety, precision and accuracy of Laser Cataract Surgery.

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Teens' dating relationships affect their health

Did you know a teen's dating relationship could have a big impact on their health? Victims of teen dating violence (TDV) are more likely to be depressed, report binge drinking, and perform poorly in school.¹

TDV can involve many types of behaviors that result in:

- Physical,
- Emotional,
- Verbal, or
- Sexual abuse

Both boys and girls can be a victim or the cause of TDV, which can begin as early as middle school. TDV can happen in person, but also through phone calls, text messages, or social media like Facebook and Twitter. Technology is a common way

for abusive dating partners to keep track of their dating partner and keep control.²

Some warning signs that indicate a teen may be a victim of dating violence are:³

- They have fewer friends or are more isolated
- They cry or are sad more often
- They are less involved in activities
- They insist on responding to their dating partner's calls or messages immediately
- They have lost their self-confidence and become very self-critical
- They excuse their dating partner's behavior or say it is their own fault

If you want to talk with a teen that may be the victim of dating

violence, keep in mind that:³

- They do not want to feel judged
- They want to feel self-sufficient
- They may want to hide their behaviors
- They may not know that the problems are serious or that they need help

Teens get messages about how to behave in relationships every day. We each have a hand in stopping TDV by having mutual respect and healthy relationships in our own lives.

If you are a teen who is in an abusive relationship, you are not alone—and it is not your fault. Many resources can help. If you are in immediate danger, dial 911.

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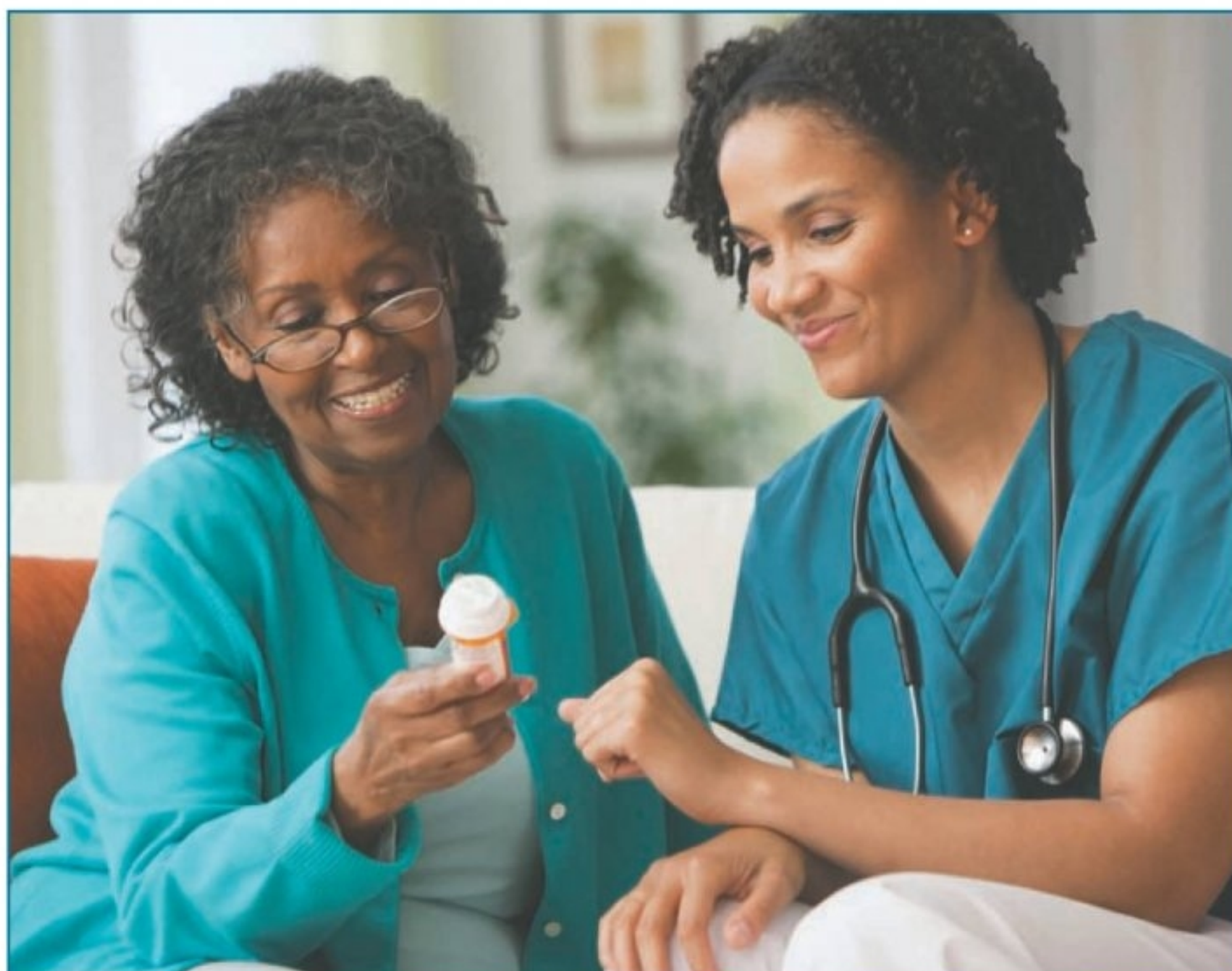
Teen Dating Violence Statistics

Often teens and adults do not realize how common teen dating violence is.

- 1 in 3 teens say they have received up to 30 text messages in one hour from their dating partner demanding to know where they are, who they are with, or what they are doing.²
- 1 in 4 teens say they have been the victim of verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year.⁴
- 1 in 5 teens say their dating partner used a networking site like Facebook to harass them.²
- 1 in 10 teens say they have been being hit, slapped, or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year.⁵

Teen Dating Violence Resources

- National Dating Abuse Helpline (24/7): 1-866-331-9474 or text 77054 TTY: 1-866-331-8453
- Massachusetts SafeLink Hotline (Multilingual, 24/7): 1-877-785-2020 TTY: 1-877-521-2601
- Love is Not Abuse: www.loveisnotabuse.com
- Love is Respect: www.loveisrespect.org



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Thursday 10	The Dimock Center
Tuesday 15	Bowdoin Street Health Center
Wednesday 23	Martha Eliot Health Center
Thursday 24	Roxbury Comprehensive
Tuesday 29	Bowdoin Street Health Center
Wednesday 30	Joseph Smith Community Health Center - Waltham

February 2013

Site	
Tuesday 5	The Dimock Center
Thursday 7	Geiger Gibson Health Center
Tuesday 12	Bowdoin Street Health Center
Wednesday 13	Joseph Smith Community Health Center - Allston
Tuesday 19	Whittier Street Health Center
Wednesday 20	Martha Eliot Health Center
Tuesday 26	Bowdoin Street Health Center
Wednesday 27	Joseph Smith Community Health Center - Waltham
Thursday 28	South End Community Health Center

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Ragging on Rondo has become local pastime

► Boston still split down the middle on whether or not moody point guard 'gets it' ► Bashers should simply enjoy the ride ► At the very least, he's entertaining

Opinion

Rajon Rondo has long been the most polarizing sports figure in Boston.

Skipping his rookie year in 2006-07, during which you would have been hard-pressed to find anyone with much of an opinion on any Celtic considering the team went 24-58, Rondo detractors have been feuding with Rondo backers.

In just his second season, the cantankerous point guard was thrown into the NBA pressure cooker as there were many pundits who claimed the KG-Allen-Pierce C's couldn't win a title with such an immature point guard.

But Rondo surpassed those low expectations in the 2008 postseason, posting double figures in points in 15-of-26 games that spring while giving on-lookers a glimpse into the future with two "Woah, we might have something here" double-double games.

The expectations heading into every season since have grown exponentially. It started with, "Can Rondo be an All-Star?" That gave way to several years of "Can Rondo be the Celtics' leader?" Today, it's "Is Rondo a top-10 player?"

Now, there's no doubt that Rondo has grown as a player since 2006-07. And in today's warped sports world, that's all we should expect for any player under the age of 30. But the

Quoted

"I don't expect Rondo's going to play the rest of his career and not go over the line emotionally. I guess I'm OK with that, just going to learn from it."

CELTICS PRESIDENT OF BASKETBALL OPERATIONS DANNY AINGE TO THE BOSTON GLOBE LAST MONTH

main gripe still is that people just aren't sure if he's grown as a man. His chest bump of referee Marc Davis in a playoff game last year was eventually overshadowed by the fact that he looked like the best player in the league in several of those postseason games. The thought was that No. 9 had turned the page when it came to this sort of stuff... but then we found out that he's no fan of former E! superstars when he shoved Kris Humphries into the third row at the Garden.

Still, his play on the floor this season has been largely brilliant and shockingly consistent. He has posted double-figures in either points or assists in every full game he's played this season. The Celtics may be just 11-9 on the season, but even the most anti-of the anti-Rondo crowd would agree that those nine losses have little to do

with his on-court play.

We've gotten to a point with Rondo where it seems that even if he did not get a technical foul for the rest of this career, the haters would shout "IMMATURE" from the rooftops when his name was in the conversation as "best in the game."

Last Saturday on WEEI's "Dale (Arnold) and Kirk (Minihane) Show," the bashers were out in full force. One guy claimed Rondo wasn't even a top 10 point guard, let alone a top 10 player in the league. Another claimed Tony Parker was the more talented player — he of the one career triple-double (Monday night against Houston). If we're keeping score, Rondo has 24 career triple-doubles. Yet another caller said O.J. Mayo was better.

This came less than 24 hours after Rondo nearly posted a triple-double against the Sixers — in the first half!

Will Rondo ever be an NBA choir boy like a Shane Battier or Grant Hill? Unlikely. That edge he plays with is part of what makes him great. But he still has a legit chance to improve his bad boy image.

In 2005, Paul Pierce was 27 years old and got ejected from a playoff game against the Pacers, swung his jersey over his head while leaving the arena and went to the postgame press conference with bandages over all over his face.

Today, Rajon Rondo is 26 years old and has experienced worlds more playoff basketball in his first six years in the league than Pierce. But like Pierce in 2005, Rondo is still learning the NBA ropes.

We want to rush to judgment on him, but we should at least enjoy watching him learn the process — one triple-double and, sometimes, one ejection at a time.

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Mediocre Mavs

Much like the Celtics, Dallas has been quite average this season with an 11-10 record. The two teams meet tonight at TD Garden (8 p.m., CSN):

► Dirk Nowitzki is still out with a sore knee after surgery prior to the start of the sea-

son and may not be back for the Mavs until the New Year. O.J. Mayo has been a great addition to the Mavs as he leads the team in scoring at 20.8 ppg.

► Vince Carter and Chris Kaman have both enjoyed rejuvenation years in the early-going as Carter is pumping in 12.7 ppg and Kaman 14.3.



► Rajon Rondo is averaging a double-double this season at 13.0 ppg and 12.8 apg.

3

In the news



Swish-a-licious

Despite signing Shane Victorino, the Red Sox remain interested in signing Yankees outfielder Nick Swisher, according to ESPN.

Boston is considering Swisher as a "fallback plan" if it is unable to land prize free agent Josh Hamilton. Swisher ripped off 24 homers with New York last season.

FAMILIES NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY!

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Similar script for Pats with 49ers in town

New England handed Houston a Texas-sized loss Monday night.

It was clear by the end of the first quarter that what was thought to be the showdown of the year was going to be more like the shutdown of the

year.

There was much doubt surrounding the Pats through the first seven games of the season. They were just 4-3 and barely came out with a win over the Jets in overtime at Gillette Stadium.

Again, in Week 10 against Buffalo at Gillette, it was a last-second interception in the end zone that held off the Bills' comeback.

But even so, the Patriots are



► Colin Kaepernick and the 49ers should fare better than the Texans did in Foxboro.

GETTY IMAGES

7-0 since a 24-23 loss in Week 6 to Seattle. They crushed the Colts. They crushed the Jets on the road. And on Monday night they crushed the then-11-1 and AFC's No. 1-seeded Texans.

There's one NFC team, however, that isn't going to crown the Pats tops in the NFL at this point, and they come to New England on Sunday night.

The 49ers are next up on the schedule, and again, the

hype will be all about the opposing team and quarterback – Colin Kaepernick. He's big, he's got an arm, and he can certainly run if need be, as highlighted by his 50-yard rushing touchdown to put the game out of reach against Miami on Sunday. The 49ers also have one of the best running games around as well as a top overall defense in the NFL.

Sound familiar?

● JIMMY TOSCANO

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► Lifestyle expert Danny Seo shows us how to create cost-effective, eco-friendly and supercute decorations out of everyday items ► You don't need art skills to make any of these good-for-the-planet projects

Q&A: Danny Seo

How do you plan to decorate for the holidays?

I'm making a big newspaper wreath this year. You cut six or seven squares of newspaper out and then you put the squares onto a wreath frame — which are like \$2 at a craft store. Then you zip-tie that bunch of newspaper onto the frame and take your hands and scrunch it; they become these newspaper rosettes. Once you do the whole thing, you can create a giant wreath using newspapers you already have, and the only tools you need are a wreath frame, zip ties and scissors.

Forget spending a ton of money on fancy wrapping paper, ribbons and boxes. "It's the silliest thing in the world; you know someone's just going to tear it up and throw it away," says green lifestyle expert and crafter Danny Seo. But don't get him wrong, Seo believes in gorgeous presentation. "I just think there are so many things that you can use that you already have to wrap presents and make them look really pretty." In his new book "Upcycling Celebrations," the "Today" show contributor creates more than 100 ingenious holiday-themed projects out of stuff that's lying around (think: cheery garlands from packing peanuts). We got him to teach us a few projects



PHOTOS: LAURA MOSS

from his book. Start raiding your cabinets now.

Why are homemade decorations more special?

When someone asks, "Oh, where did you get these trimmers?" the last thing you want to say is Pottery Barn. You want to have a story, like, "Oh, when I was 8 years old I made these with my mother; we've had them generation to generation." So what I was trying to do with this book was to take the idea of making things by hand and make it easy for people who truly don't have a lot of skill.

What's a good starter project?

During the holidays, everybody gives out gift cards; it's an easy gift, but it's hard to wrap. What

I do is I save Altoids tins, and cover it in a really pretty paper. (see below for directions). Once it's done, throw some peppermint candies inside, place the gift card on top, tie it with a ribbon and you're done.

Altoids tin gift card cases

Forget envelopes: Save some trees and use your empty Altoids tins when giving gift cards to your loved ones.



HOW-TO: You don't have to cover the outside of the tin with decorative paper, but if you don't, you are simply reusing an Altoids tin and not upcycling it. If aesthetics matter to you, it's easy to do: Spread craft glue on the

top of the Altoids tin and lay it flat on a piece of pretty paper. Press it firmly in place and then use an X-Acto knife to trim off the excess along the edges for a clean finish. Do the same along the edges of the tin. Paint a thin

layer of glue around the edges and sprinkle with glitter, place a gift card inside and tie it all up with a ribbon.

OLIVIA MORROW
letters@metro.us

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Happy Holidays banner

Make your own quirky holiday banner to greet your guests and spruce up a blank space.

HOW-TO: Cut thick office-supply paper (think card-stock) into circles. With a hot-glue gun, attach dried-out pens, markers and broken pencils to the front of each circle to spell out a letter. Repeat until your phrase is completed. Use a hole punch to make two holes at the top of each circle, and run yarn or string through it to make the garland.

Hot air balloon decorations

Put your used lightbulbs to use and make these adorable hot air balloon ornaments.

HOW-TO: Cut tissue paper into small strips that will cover the outside of the bulb, from the base of the socket to the top of the bulb. Cover the whole bulb in Mod Podge glue and attach the tissue paper on top. Wait for it to dry slightly (about 10 minutes; do other bulbs as you wait) and then apply a thin layer of more Mod Podge on top to seal it in. To get the striped appearance, use strips of identical tissue paper and attach them one at a time, alternating colors. Allow to dry completely. Tie two pieces of string around the socket tightly, and bring them up along the sides of the



bulb and knot at the top. Leave excess so you have enough string to loop around the tree to hang it. Twist a champagne metal cage around the bottom to make the "basket" for the balloon.

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By Attorney
George Warshaw

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During the draw period you are typically required to only pay the monthly interest due on the amount you have actually used. With rates incredibly low, that may not be a problem today for many people. The problem comes when you have to pay back the principal; i.e., the amount you borrowed.

In your planning you have to account for two likely events. First, the amount you owe after 10 years becomes a 15 year amortized mortgage. The monthly payment may be pretty steep and the rate may be a lot higher than today.

Second, if you already have a home equity loan, make sure that the draw period will still be available until your child finishes college; otherwise plan to get refinance your home equity loan. © 2012 George Warshaw.



George Warshaw is a real estate attorney and author. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts, and estate plans. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

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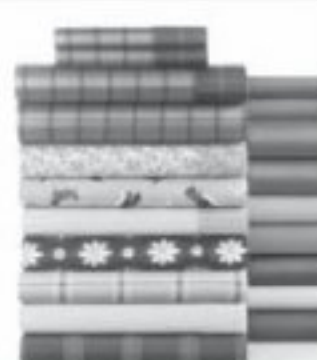
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